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COUNTRY East Germany

REPORT

TOPIC Military Activities in the Area of the XXVIII Gds. Itz. Rifle Corps

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EVALUATION

PLACE OBTAINED

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DATE OF CONTENT

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DATE OBTAINED

DATE PREPARED 25 August 1955

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REFERENCES

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ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE)

REMARKS

This is UNEVALUATED Information

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1. Between 26 and 29 July 1955, the following shipments were loaded at the Gera loading station:
- 26 July. Between 2200 and 2330, 30 new trucks, 2 van-like trucks, 1 three-axle truck, 1 ambulance, 1 field kitchen, 11 boxcars with some 160 soldiers.
- 27 July. At 1900, a shipment of approximately 120 xies; no details were observed. At 2330, 12 YA-12 armored scout cars, 12 guns, presumably model 31/37 122-mm field guns, 5 van-like trucks, 12 trucks of old and new types, 1 ambulance, 1 field kitchen, 1 boxcar with ammunition and some 150 soldiers wearing red-bordered black epaulets.
- 28 July. At 0300, 12 YA-12 armored scout cars, 12 guns, presumably model 31/37 122-mm field guns, 1 AT gun, 14 new trucks, 4 van-like trucks, 1 ambulance, 1 field kitchen and 2 boxcars with ammunition.
- At 0600, 14 YA-12 armored scout cars, 12 guns, presumably model 31/37 122-mm field guns, 8 new trucks, 7 van-like trucks, 1 ambulance, 2 field kitchens, approximately 150 soldiers wearing red-bordered black epaulets and 2 boxcars with ammunition.
- 29 July. At 2000, 13 YA-12 armored scout cars, 12 guns, presumably 100-mm AT guns, 4 guns, presumably 76-mm AT guns, 18 trucks of new and old types, 8 van-like trucks, 1 radio truck, 1 field kitchen, 1 ambulance and some 150 soldiers. All shipments came from the Reuss Kaserne (8141) and left toward Zeitz.

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2. Between 26 July and 3 August 1955, the Prinz-Louis-Ferdinand Kaserne (8481) in Saalfeld was occupied by an estimated 50 soldiers wearing red-bordered black epaulets, 200 soldiers wearing blue-bordered black epaulets and 200 soldiers wearing black-bordered red epaulets. On 26 July, approximately 70 soldiers wearing blue-bordered black epaulets were observed near the Hohenwarthe Saale talsperre. An amphibious vehicle which was occupied by 10 soldiers was seen on the lake. The unit returned to the installation at 1600. On 1 August, a unit with 18 trucks and 5 M-13 rocket launchers left the installation toward Schwarz. The vehicles towed 2 field kitchens and were occupied by approximately 270 soldiers. At about 1830 on 2 August, 6 armored personnel carriers, each mounting a canvas-covered gun, and 3 trucks, each occupied by 20 soldiers wearing red-bordered black epaulets, entered the installation from the direction of Pörsneck.

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3. Between 1 and 4 August, the Artillerie Kaserne in Zeitz (8542) was occupied by

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340 to 400 soldiers who wore red-bordered black epaulets. Most of the soldiers seen en route to and from the installation wore **tank** insignia. At 1630 on 1 August, 27 T-34/85 tanks were seen en route from Haynsburg to the installation. At 1730, 2 amphibious vehicles and 2 four-wheel armored personnel carriers and on 3 August, 1 SU-100 gun entered the installation. During the same period, the Infanterie Kaserne (8541) in Zeitz was occupied by approximately 100 soldiers wearing black-bordered red and red-bordered black epaulets, Trucks [redacted] were seen en route to and from the installation. 3

4. The Zeitz Forest was still restricted on 1 August. No activity was observed. At 1345, a column of 40 trucks, 16 x 85-mm AT guns, 1 radio and 1 equipment truck carrying some 400 soldiers who wore red-bordered black epaulets with artillery insignia was seen en route from the Zeitz Forest to Zeitz via Raba. A short time later, 25 T-34/85 tanks entered the Artillerie Kaserne in Zeitz from the same direction. It was learned that these vehicles and weapons had been detrained at the Haynsburg railroad station. 4

1. [redacted] Comment. The bulk of the 308th Arty Brig of the XXVIII Gds Mtz Rifle Corps was entrained, presumably for Altengraben. The "model 31/37 122-mm field guns" are quite definitely believed to have been 152-mm gun howitzers. [redacted] 20 x 152-mm gun howitzers and 8 x 100-mm guns had been entrained in Gera between 27 and 29 August. [redacted]
2. [redacted] Comment. The installation is believed to be occupied by the 316th Gds RL Regt of the XXVII Gds Mtz Rifle Corps and the 45th Gds Engr Bn of the 39th Gds Mtz Rifle Div. Weapons and equipment observed belong to these units.
3. [redacted] Comment. The Artillerie Kaserne is believed to be occupied by the 36th Gds Tank Regt and 24th Gds RL Bn of the 20th Gds Mecz Div. The tanks came either from the Ohrdruf training grounds (unloading in Haynsburg) or the Zeitz Forest.
4. [redacted] Comment. The intensive training activity in the Zeitz Forest apparently decreased. The 85-mm AT guns presumably belong to the 67th Gds Mecz Regt of the Gds Mecz Div. The T-34/85 tanks are most probably identical with the tanks mentioned in paragraph 3 of the present report.

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